

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SY-05 SCCT-01 OMB-01 CU-02 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /064 W

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R 151904Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6722

INFO AMCONSULATES IN MEXICO

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 2336

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINR MX SEDU

SUBJ: PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA VISITS UNAM

REF: MEXICO 2333

1. PARA 4 REF STATED PRESIDENT WAS NOT INJURED BY ROCKS THROWN AS HE LEFT UNAM CAMPUS FOLLOWING VISIT THERE MARCH 14. ACTUALLY, PRESIDENT WAS STRUCK IN FOREHEAD BY OBJECT AND INJURY BLEED. HOWEVER THE WOUND WAS BARELY PERCEPTIBLE TO OBSERVERS LATER IN DAY WHEN PRESIDENT RESUMED HIS SCHEDULE.

2. ACCORDING TO A RADIO REPORT, VEHICLE CARRYING PRESIDENT FROM CAMPUS HAD WINDSHIELD SMASHED. SEC. OF EDUCATION BRAVO AHUJA AND UNAM RECTOR SOBERON ALSO WERE BOTH HIT WITH THROWN OBJECTS, WHICH INCLUDED ROCKS, BOTTLES, STICKS. SOBERON SUFFERED MINOR INJURY TO FINGER WHEN JOSSLED BY UNFRIENDLY STUDENTS.

3. IN DISCUSSION WITH REPORTERS LATER IN DAY, PRESIDENT WAS QUOTED AS SAYING "IT WAS A MANIPULATED GROUP" BUT DID NOT

REITERATE ALLEGATION THAT CIA INVOLVED, AS HE HAD DURING HEAT OF HIS DISRUPTED SPEECH. PRESIDENT ALSO SAID HE WOULD RETURN
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"NEXT YEAR" ON SAME OCCASION.

4. SECURITY FORCES WERE NOT IN EVIDENCE AND APPARENTLY NO ATTEMPT WAS MADE TO QUELL VIOLENCE. IN ANY EVENT CAMPUS WAS QUIET BY MID-AFTERNOON.

5. COMMENT: A. PRESIDENT, APPARENTLY PROTECTED ONLY BY FRIENDLY STUDENTS, COULD HAVE BEEN SERIOUSLY HURT. B. PRAISE BY SOBERON AND BRAVO AHUJA OF PRESIDENT'S "VALOR" - DETERMINATION TO HAVE DIALOGUE WITH STUDENTS DESPITE THE RISK - SUGGESTS ECHEVERRIA WAS WARNED OF PROBABLE UNFRIENDLY RECEPTION. JOVA

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